

About Authors

RIMONA AFANA specializes in conflict resolution, human rights and international cooperation. She holds a MSc in Conflict Resolution and Governance from the University of Amsterdam, with research in the nexus between reconciliation and justice in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and a MA in Intercultural Communication from the University of Craiova, with a focus on the intercultural implications of human rights. Her undergraduate studies are in politics and communication science in Romania and Germany. She has been for seven years engaged in civil society activism locally and internationally, with experience in human rights education, international justice advocacy, conflict resolution, non-governmental organization capacity building, and intercultural communication. In 2013 she commenced her PhD in transitional justice at The University of Ulster, Northern Ireland.

SUSANA G. ARTAL is Professor of Medieval European Literature at the Universidad de Buenos Aires. She took her PhD at Université Laval (Québec, Canada) with a thesis on Rabelais and Quevedo's human body representation. She has published *Francisco de Quevedo y François Rabelais. Imágenes deshumanizantes y representación literaria del cuerpo* (EUNSA, 2012), *Para leer a Rabelais. Miradas plurales sobre un texto singular* (Eudeba, 2009), *Un mundo en cambio. Cuentos europeos del siglo XIV* (2005), *Del rey Arturo a los héroes del espacio* (1998), *De guerras, héroes y cantos* (1992) and numerous articles in specialized magazines like *Hispanic Review*, *Bulletin Hispanique*, *Medievalia*, *Rilce*, *Filología*, *Signos*, *Letras*, *Alpha*, etc. As a poet, she has been awarded several literary prizes and has published a book titled *De piedra al canto* (1995).

ZORAN BOŽIČ is an assistant at the School of Humanities at the University of Nova Gorica. During his doctoral studies at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana in 2010 he prepared his dissertation entitled *Poezija Franceta Prešerna v srednješolskih učbenikih in njena recepcija* (dealing with problems of canonizing, didactics and reader's response), which has also been published as a book (entitled *Slovenska literatura v šoli in Prešeren*). For more than thirty years, he has been teaching Slovenian language and literature at the High School of Economics and has also written two manuals for home reading entitled *Zlati poljub* and *Poljub zlata*. The manuals introduce sixty narrative and dramatic texts from the Slovenian and world literature, presented as a learning chain based on fragments and supplemented with questions for close reading.

FERNANDO CABO ASEGUINOLAZA is a professor of literary theory and comparative literature at the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain). He has edited *El guitón Onofre* (1988), *El Buscón* (1993, 2011) and *Execración contra los judíos* (1996). He is also the author of *El concepto de género y la picaresca* (1992), *Infancia y modernidad literaria* (Biblioteca Nueva, 2001) and *Manual de teoría de la literatura* (Castalia, 2006), the latter along with María do Cebreiro Rábade Villar. In 2010, *A Comparative History of Literatures in the Iberian Peninsula* was published by John Benjamins, under the direction of Fernando Cabo, Anxo Abuín and César Domínguez, as a new volume in the series *Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages*, sponsored by the ICLA. His most recent book is *El lugar de la literatura española*, which is part of the *Historia de la literatura española*, directed by José-Carlos Mainer. Currently, Fernando Cabo leads a research project with the title “The production of place. Literary cartographies and critical models” and is part of a research team on the narrative works of Rosalía de Castro.

BENEDIKTS KALNAČS is Deputy Director of the Institute of Literature, Folklore, and Art at the University of Latvia, Riga, and Professor at the University of Liepāja. He is co-editor of *300 Baltic Writers: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania* (Vilnius, 2009), *Back to Baltic Memory: Lost and Found in Literature 1940–1968* (Riga, 2008), *We Have Something in Common: The Baltic Memory* (Tallinn, 2007), *Ibsen in Poland and the Baltic Nations* (Oslo, 2006), and editor and author of several books in Latvian, most recent among them *Postkoloniālā Baltijas drāma* (Riga, 2011).

ANNE LANGE has graduated from the University of Tartu in 1985, and is currently Associate Professor of translation studies at Tallinn University. Working years as a freelance translator (translating John Bunyan, Henry James, Katherine Mansfield, Anaïs Nin, Ben Okri, Arundhati Roy, Ian McEwan, et al), she defended her PhD on the poetics of translation of Ants Oras at Tallinn University in 2007. Her fields of research include translation studies and Estonian cultural history.

SULIKO LIIV is Professor of English at the Institute of Germanic and Romance Languages and Cultures at Tallinn University, Estonia. She is the author of a number of articles in the field and has taught and administered English language and culture programmes at Tallinn University. Her research interests include cultural studies, contrastive linguistics and language teacher education. Suliko Liiv is a member of several international associations.

JESÚS LÓPEZ-PELÁEZ CASELLAS is a Corresponding Member of the North American Academy of the Spanish Language (ANLE), and Associate Professor of English at the Universidad de Jaén (Spain), where he currently teaches English and Comparative Literature, Drama and Popular Culture. Prof. López-Peláez obtained his PhD from the Universidad de Granada with a thesis on Shakespeare and Calderón in 1995, and has conducted research as a Fellow Resident at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington DC, and as a visiting scholar at Arizona State, Michigan State and Penn State Universities. His most recent publications include the books *Honourable Murderers* (2009) and *Strangers in Early Modern English Texts* (editor, 2011), articles in *Studies in Philology*, *Studia Neophilologica*, *Miscelánea*, and various book chapters. Prof. López-Peláez is the current editor of the journal *The Grove. Working Papers on English Studies*, and Research Project Manager of the project “Muslims, Spaniards and Jews in Early Modern English Texts: The Construction of the Other” (<http://www.ujaen.es/investiga/strangers>).

MIRIAM McILFATRICK-KSENOFONTOV is Lecturer of Irish Literature and Culture at the Institute of Germanic and Romance Languages and Cultures of Tallinn University. Her research interests include Irish and Estonian poetry, the oral poetic tradition, the poetics of translation, and creative writing. She is currently writing her doctoral thesis on process in translating poetry. She has been a freelance translator of Estonian poetry for oral and print publication since the 1990s, translating such poets as Doris Kareva, Indrek Hirv, fs, Asko Künnap, Kätlin Kaldmaa, Triin Soomets, and Ülar Ploom. A selection of Doris Kareva poems in translation has appeared in the online literary journal *Pratiliipi*: “Trim Time to a Sliver: Doris Kareva” (<http://pratiliipi.in/2011/11/trim-time-to-a-sliver-doris-kareva/>). She has also collaborated with Doris Kareva on the translation of Irish women poets into Estonian, *Rogha Danta – seitse iiri luuletari*. Tallinn: verb, 2005.

ARNE MERILAI is Professor and Chair of Estonian Literature (2011) of the University of Tartu, former associate professor of literary theory. At present, his primary area of research is national literature in the context of world literature informed by a comparative poetics and “unified field theory” for literary studies. Primarily, his research is anchored in bio-bibliographical and comparative historical traditions, formal poetic analysis, linguistic and close-reading criticism, literary psychoanalysis and phenomenology. In addition, he has developed an innovative approach called “pragmapoetics”, a philosophy of poetic language usage rooted in analytical philosophy. His book *Eesti ballaad 1900–1940* was published in 1991, and *Eesti pagulaskirjandus 1944–1992*:

Luule (with Õnne Kepp) in 1994. *Eesti ballaad: Antoloogia: XVII–XX sajand, Poeetika: Gümnaasiumiõpik* (with Anneli Saro and Epp Annus), and *Pragmapoeetika: Kahe konteksti teooria* were released in 2003. Besides editing the joint research books, he has published two volumes of his own selected articles, *Vokimeister: Kriitilisi konstruktsioone 1990–2011* (2011), and *Õnne tähendus: Kriitilisi emotsioone 1990–2010* (2011). A member of the Estonian Writers' Union, he penned two collections of poetry, *Merlini aare* (1998) and *Tolmutort* (2001), a play (2006), and a novel *Türann Oidipus* (2009).

ANNELI MIHKELEV took her PhD degree in Semiotics and Cultural Studies at the University of Tartu with the monograph *Vihjamise poeetika* in 2005. She works as a Senior Researcher in the Under and Tuglas Literature Centre of the Estonian Academy of Sciences and as Associate Professor of Comparative Literature in Tallinn University. Her fields of research include Estonian literature, allusions in literature and culture, and comparative literature (mainly Baltic literatures). She has published articles on these topics in several international and Estonian publications.

DANIELE MONTICELLI took his PhD (2008) in Semiotics at the University of Tartu with a thesis on the nature of theoretical constructions in semiotics, philosophy and political theory and his MA degree (1995) in Philosophy at the University of Milan with a thesis on the semantic of conditionals. He works as Associate Professor of Italian Studies and Semiotics at Tallinn University where he chairs the Department of Romance Studies. His fields of research include philosophy of language, translation theory, literary semiotics and contemporary continental philosophy, particularly the political theories of G. Agamben, A. Badiou, A. Negri, J. Rancière and S. Žižek. He has published several articles on these topics and some literary and essayistic translations from Estonian into Italian. He regularly publishes reviews and essays in Estonian cultural journals and writes as a political columnist for Estonian newspapers.

JOHN NEUBAUER is Professor Emeritus of Comparative Literature at the University of Amsterdam, Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy (FBA), and co-editor of the comparatist journal *arcadia*. His publications include *Symbolismus und symbolische Logik* (1978), *The Emancipation of Music from Language* (1986), and *The Fin-de-siècle Culture of Adolescence* (1992). He has been co-editor of *The Reception of Laurence Sterne in Europe* (2004), of the four-volume *History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe* (2004–2010), and of *The Exile and Return of Writers from East-Central Europe* (2009).

His present interests include music and language in the nineteenth century, theories of literary history, and adaptation in the arts and evolution.

EMILIA PARPALĂ is Professor at the Faculty of Letters, University of Craiova, since 1975. Her academic interests include stylistics, poetics, semiotics, imagology and verbal communication. Between 2009 and 2011 she coordinated a research project on Romanian postmodern poetry, approached with a complex interdisciplinary methodology. She initiated and coordinated five editions of the international conference *Comparativism, Identity, Culture* and co-edited five volumes. Her PhD thesis, *Poetica lui Tudor Arghezi. Modele semiotice și tipuri de text* (1984), pioneered the practice of generative poetics in Romania. *Poezia semiotică. Promoția '80* (1994) is constructed on the idea of isomorphism between (semiotic) theory and the literary practice. The main topics have been reconsidered in the volume she coordinated in 2011, *Postmodernismul poetic românesc. O perspectivă semio-pragmatică și cognitivă*. She is the author of four theoretical syntheses: *Comunicarea verbală* (2009); *Semiotica generală. Pragmatica* (2007); *Introducere în stilistică* – three editions (1998, 2005, 2006); *Poetica. O introducere* (1998). She has published more than 100 articles in Romania and abroad. Since 2010 she is the vice-president of the Romanian Association for Semiotic Studies (ROASS).

CARMEN POPESCU is Senior Lecturer, PhD, at the University of Craiova, Romania, Department of Romanian and Classical Philology. She teaches general and comparative literature, and optional courses, including one on intertextuality. In 2002 she defended her thesis in philology, entitled *Scripturile diferenței. Intertextualitatea parodică în literatura română contemporană*. The thesis appeared in book-form in 2006. She has published a number of articles on comparative literature, intertextuality, parody, and the reception of classical themes in modern and postmodern literature. She has co-edited two editions (2009 and 2010) of the Proceedings of *Comparativism, identity, communication*, an international conference organized by University of Craiova. She was a member in the research project *Romanian Poetic Postmodernism. 1980–2010. A Semio-Pragmatic and Cognitive Approach* (2008–2011).

MARIS SÕRMUS is a PhD candidate at the Institute of Germanic and Romance Languages and Cultures at Tallinn University, Estonia. Her thesis focuses on the aspect of nature and place in the work of Anita Desai, Monique Roffey, and Kerstin Ekman. Her previous research has been also situated in ecocriticism. She has a background in comparative literature and cultural semiotics, whereas the comparative research on place and nature in the writings

of Graham Swift and Andrus Kivirähk has been acknowledged with first prize at Tallinn University's student research contest. Her research interests include ecocriticism, contemporary British and Swedish literature, cultural studies, comparative literature, and postcolonial studies.

KATRE TALVISTE has a PhD in comparative literature. At present she is a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Tartu with a Mobilitas Programme grant project *Translations of French Poetry into Estonian: their Creation and Functions in the Context of Estonian Literature*. Translation history is her main research interest, she has published a monograph (*La poésie estonienne et Baudelaire*, 2011) in this field and is a member of an international research group preparing the monograph *Histoire de la traduction en Europe médiane* (www.histrad.info). She is also a translator (most recently of works by Voltaire and Baudelaire) and is actively involved in various aspects of teaching literature both at school and university level.

MARJA UNT is a lecturer of Estonian Literature at the University of Tartu. She is a member of the Estonian Association of Comparative Literature and of the Estonian Literary Society. She defended her MA thesis titled *Estonian poetry 1968–1988 in the dynamics of discourse* in 2007. Her main fields of research include Estonian poetry in the 20th century, especially the Soviet era, and literary criticism. She is also the academic secretary of the Estonian Literary Society and the programme manager of Tartu international literary festival Prima Vista.

JULIA TOFANTŠUK is Associate Professor at the Institute of Germanic and Romance Languages and Cultures at Tallinn University, Estonia. Her PhD dissertation was on construction of identity in the fiction of contemporary British women writers, focusing on Eva Figs, Jeanette Winterson, and Meera Syal. She has published articles and delivered papers on classical and contemporary British literature, gender, identity, and ecocritical concerns. Her recent research and teaching interests include literature by women, gender studies, identity studies, cultural studies, postcolonial theory, comparative literature, and ecocriticism. Julia Tofantšuk is a member of Estonian Women's Studies Center and international Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment.

BEATRIZ VALVERDE, PhD, was Professor of Spanish language and Literature at Loyola University Chicago, USA. She earned her PhD in English Philology at the University of Jaén, Spain, and her thesis focused on the work of the British writer Graham Greene. She also has a MA degree in Spanish language and literature from Loyola University Chicago. She belongs to the

research group “Aproximación multidisciplinar al inglés”, of the Department of English Philology at the University of Jaén. Her scientific research interests include British literature in the 20th century, literature in relation to politics, and comparative literature (written in Spanish and English) in the 20th century, topics about which she has published several articles in international journals.

ALI SHEHZAD ZAIDI is Associate Professor of Humanities at the State University of New York at Canton where he teaches courses in world literature, civilization, and Spanish language. He holds a doctorate and a masters in comparative literature from the University of Rochester, a masters in Spanish literature from Queens College (City University of New York), and a masters in English literature from the University of Peshawar (Pakistan). Zaidi is currently working on a book on the plays of Shakespeare and Calderón. His essays on the fantastic fiction of Mircea Eliade have appeared in various academic journals, including *Neohelicon*, *Balkanistica*, *Science Fiction*, *Interlitteraria*, *Archaeus*, and *International Journal on Humanistic Ideology*.